

SECTION: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, a complete listing of all claims in the application, and their status, is set forth below. The text of each pending claim is also provided. Please amend the pending claims as follows, wherein added matter is underlined and deleted matter is ~~stricken through~~ or [[double bracketed]] in the text of the currently amended claims, relative to the immediate prior version. The claims in this listing are deemed to replace all prior claims in the application.

1. (Original) A retractable barrier system comprising a support member, a spool supported for rotation by the support member, a spring arranged to provide a biasing load to the spool, and a skirt arranged to deflect water which would otherwise impinge on the spring.
2. (Original) A system according to Claim 1 wherein, in use, the spring is located beneath the spool.
3. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, wherein the skirt is carried by the spool.
4. (Original) A system according to Claim 3, wherein the spool and the skirt are integral with one another.
5. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, further comprising a cover forming, with the skirt, a closed compartment within which the spring is housed.

6. (Original) A system according to Claim 5, wherein the cover is secured to the skirt by at least one of a snap-fit coupling, an adhesive, and a screw-threaded coupling.
7. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, further comprising a fixed spindle supported by the support member and upon which the spool is mounted for rotation.
8. (Original) A system according to Claim 7, wherein the spring includes an end part anchored to the spindle or the support member and a second end part arranged to drive the spool.
9. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the spring is provided with a water-resistant or corrosion-resistant coating.
10. (Original) A system according to Claim 9, wherein the coating comprises a PTFE layer.
11. (Original) A retractable barrier system comprising a support member, a spool supported for rotation by the support member, and a spring arranged to apply a biasing load to the spool, wherein at least a portion of the spring is provided with a corrosion-resistant or water-resistant coating.